

Summary

Contents

CONTENTS



Introduction

Includes: **Available Products and Data Available on Request**



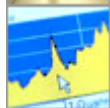
Survey Methodology

Includes: **Information on Scope and Coverage, Data Collection Methodology, Weighting, Benchmarking and Estimation, and Reliability of Estimates**



File Structure

Includes: **Information on File Structures for the TableBuilder**



Using TableBuilder

Includes: **Counting Units and Weights, Selecting data items for cross-tabulation, Field Exclusion Rules, Table Populations, Zero value cells, Multi-response Data Items, Not Applicable Categories**



Data Item List

Includes: **A Data Item List for the TableBuilder**



Conditions of Use

Includes: **User Responsibilities, Conditions of Sale, Price, How to Apply for Access and Australian Universities**



Definitions and Quality

Includes: **Abbreviations, Glossary and Quality Declaration**

Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This guide provides information about the release of microdata on Learning and Work, from the ABS 2010–11 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The MPHS is conducted each year throughout Australia from July to June and is designed to provide annual statistics for a number of small, self-contained topics.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more

questions. They are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

This guide should be used as a reference document when accessing the microdata as it explains the data content, technical details and the conditions of use.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

Microdata for the Learning and Work topic are available through the TableBuilder product – an online tool for creating tables and graphs that can be accessed from the ABS website.

Further information about TableBuilder and about microdata in general is available from the Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website.

Users wishing to access the Learning and Work TableBuilder are required to apply online using the [ABS MiCRO](#) system. All users are required to agree to the terms and conditions of use before access can be granted. To apply for access press the green button below:



DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Some data collected in the survey may not be included on TableBuilder but may be available on request, on a fee-for-service basis. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas, selected to meet individual requirements. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

Survey Methodology



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

General information about the 2010–11 MPHS Learning and Work topic, including summary results, are available in the publication Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11 (cat. no. 4235.0). All summary tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from the Learning and Work Downloads page. Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey design, data collection methodology, weighting, benchmarking and estimation and the reliability of estimates can be accessed from the Learning and Work Explanatory Notes page.

File Structure



FILE STRUCTURE

The 2010–11 MPHS asked 13,366 respondents across Australia about Learning and Work including how many qualifications they had and the relevance of their qualification to their current job.

Responses to each of these questions, along with a range of socio-demographic data are included on the TableBuilder file. This microdata has been allocated to one of two levels:

1. Socio–demographic and Learning and Work Data Items
2. Qualification Level

The two levels are hierarchical as the first level relates to people and people can have one or more qualifications which are shown in the second level. Visually, the file has one row of data containing all the *Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level Data Items* for a respondent followed by up to 10 rows of data for each of their Qualifications.

Person 1
Qualification 1
↓
Qualification 10

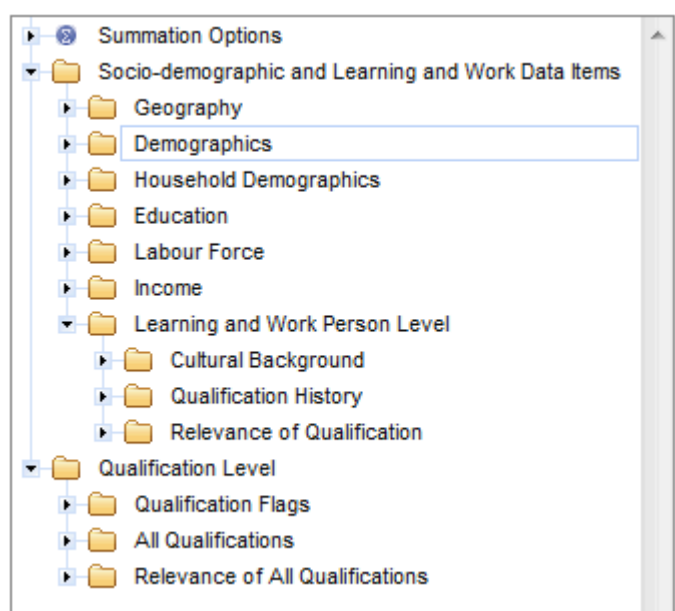
Person 2
Qualification 1
↓
Qualification 10
↓

Person 13,366
Qualification 1
↓
Qualification 10

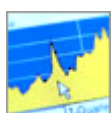
The *Socio–demographic and Learning and Work Data Items* level contains characteristic data about each respondent including their age, sex, marital status, employment, and educational status including the number of non–school qualifications completed and the level and field of highest educational attainment. This level also has some information about the households in which respondents live including the number of children present aged less than 15 and the overall household income. In addition, the *Socio–demographic and Learning and Work Data Items* level includes broad locational data items such as the respondent's state or territory of usual residence.

The *Qualification Level* contains details about each episode or completed qualification that each respondent has reported. The types of details available about each qualification include the level and field of the qualification, the year each qualification was started and completed, whether the qualification was completed in Australia and the main impact of each qualification on the respondent's working life in the first six months after completion.

The following image depicts the two levels including the sub–categories under which the individual data items have been grouped. A complete data item list can be accessed from the Downloads page.



Using TableBuilder



USING TABLEBUILDER

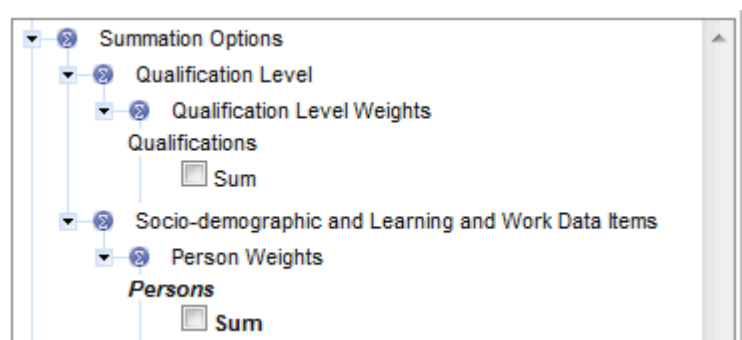
For general information relating to TableBuilder and instructions on how to use features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder, 2012, (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

More specific information applicable to the Learning and Work Survey TableBuilder, which should enable users to understand, interpret and tabulate the data, is outlined below.

COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each person. The weight is the value that indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

Selecting a weight to use in a table can be done through 'Summation options'. There are two options when using the Learning and Work Survey TableBuilder file: 'Persons' and 'Qualifications'. It is critical the correct weight is selected when specifying tables to ensure the data generated is appropriate. The following image shows the available Summation Options:



A weight in bold, such as in the image above, indicates the weight being used in the table. The default weight when producing a table using the Learning and Work Survey TableBuilder is the *Persons* weight (in bold in the image above). This weight is usually automatically applied to any table being generated.

If you are estimating the number of persons with certain characteristics (e.g. 'Number of non-school qualifications completed') the weight listed under the category heading 'Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Data Items' must be used. If this weight is not in bold:

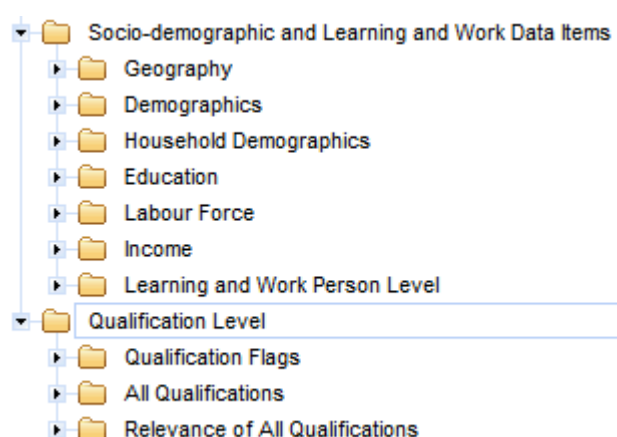
1. Click on the blue triangle 'twistie' (▼) next to the 'Summation Options' line
2. Click on the 'Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Data Items' 'twistie'
3. Click on the 'Person Weights' 'twistie'
4. Click on the 'Sum' tick box
5. Add the person weights to your table by clicking on 'add to row' or 'add to column'
6. Ensure the 'Sum' tick box under 'Qualifications' is blank

To estimate the number of qualifications (e.g. the number of non-school qualifications completed in 2010 or later) the weight listed under 'Qualification Level Weights' must be used. The same process as above can be followed, ticking the 'Sum' tick box under the Qualification Level Weights 'twistie' instead.

Qualification level data items are weighted according to the characteristics of the person who undertook the qualification, and therefore the weights for each qualification are the same as the weight for the person. For example, if a person in the sample has a weight of 600 and that person has completed three non-school qualifications then the person represents 600 people in the total population and 1,800 qualifications.

SELECTING DATA ITEMS FOR CROSS-TABULATION

It is critical to understand the tabulation results obtained when cross-tabulating data items from the different levels (see File Structure) and when using different summation options. The Learning and Work Survey file has two levels each with several sub levels:



The Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level contains a range of data items detailing the characteristics of the respondent including some education variables. The Qualifications Level contains data items about each of the qualifications that a respondent has obtained. The file is hierarchical with each respondent record potentially having multiple qualification records.

Cross-tabulating Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level X Socio-

demographic and Learning and Work Level data items








Cross-tabulating data from the Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level with other data items from the same level will produce data about people. For example, cross-tabulating the geographic variable 'State or territory of usual residence' by the 'Level of most recent non-school qualification' produces a table showing the number of people in each region by the most recent qualification they have obtained (see below).

State or territory of usual residence by Persons and Level of most recent non-school qualification (ASCED) 

Counting: Persons

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 90 (10 columns x 9 rows).

Persons		Persons (000's)				
Level of most recent non-school qualification (ASCED) 		Not applicable	Postgraduate degree	Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	Bachelor degree	Advanced diploma or diploma
State or territory of usual residence 						
NEW SOUTH WALES		2,449.3	268.3	155.4	788.1	601.1
VICTORIA		2,043.0	183.2	154.6	623.1	463.8
QUEENSLAND		1,611.6	85.5	81.6	410.8	317.6
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		623.2	50.8	37.3	142.7	116.0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		758.5	56.7	51.1	264.1	181.9
TASMANIA		197.1	7.8	10.8	37.9	36.1
NORTHERN TERRITORY		59.2	3.5	5.1	11.1	14.2
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY		100.2	18.9	12.7	55.0	31.2
Total		7,845.9	674.3	510.8	2,328.5	1,769.4

*Person weight is the default weight selection; however, it is essential to check that that the **Person weight** is selected from the 'Summation Options' for cross-tabulations where all variables are from the Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level.

Cross-tabulating Qualification Level X Qualification Level data items







Cross-tabulating data from the Qualification Level with other data items from the same level will produce data about qualifications when using the Qualification Weight. For example, cross-tabulating 'Level of non-school qualification' by 'Whether completed qualification' in Australia produces a table showing the number of qualifications completed in Australia. If a respondent has several qualifications, each of those qualifications is included in the table (see below). By using the **Qualification weight** in the 'Summation Options', each of a respondent's qualifications is included in the table.

Level of non-school qualification (ASCED) by Qualifications and Whether completed qualification in Australia

Counting: Qualifications

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 30 (3 columns x 10 rows).

	Qualifications (000's)	
Whether completed qualification in Australia  	Completed qualification in Australia	Did not complete qualification in Australia
Level of non-school qualification (ASCED)  		
Not applicable	0	0
Postgraduate degree	666.0	217.4
Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	712.2	68.2
Bachelor degree	3,003.4	855.1
Advanced diploma or diploma	2,164.6	415.3
Certificate III or IV	3,897.7	325.8
Certificate I or II	1,170.4	91.5
Certificate n.f.d.	323.1	42.3
Level not determined	512.1	112.3
Total	12,448.5	2,123.8







If the same cross-tabulation of 'Level of non-school qualification' by 'Whether completed qualification in Australia' is generated but using the Person weight instead of the Qualification weight, the following table is produced:

Level of non-school qualification (ASCED) by Persons and Whether completed qualification in Australia

Counting: Persons

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 30 (3 columns x 10 rows).

	Persons (000's)	
Whether completed qualification in Australia  	Completed qualification in Australia	Did not complete qualification in Australia
Level of non-school qualification (ASCED)  		
Not applicable	0	0
Postgraduate degree	606.6	188.4
Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	623.8	64.0
Bachelor degree	2,673.2	803.2
Advanced diploma or diploma	1,945.8	391.0
Certificate III or IV	3,371.2	319.5
Certificate I or II	1,003.7	83.1
Certificate n.f.d.	284.8	27.4
Level not determined	456.9	90.0
Total	8,563.1	1,690.8

When using the Person weight, a respondent with several qualifications may have some

qualifications excluded from the table. This occurs because the same combinations of responses can only be counted once in a table when the Person weight is applied. To illustrate, a person has the following five qualifications (each qualification appears as a separate record on the file):

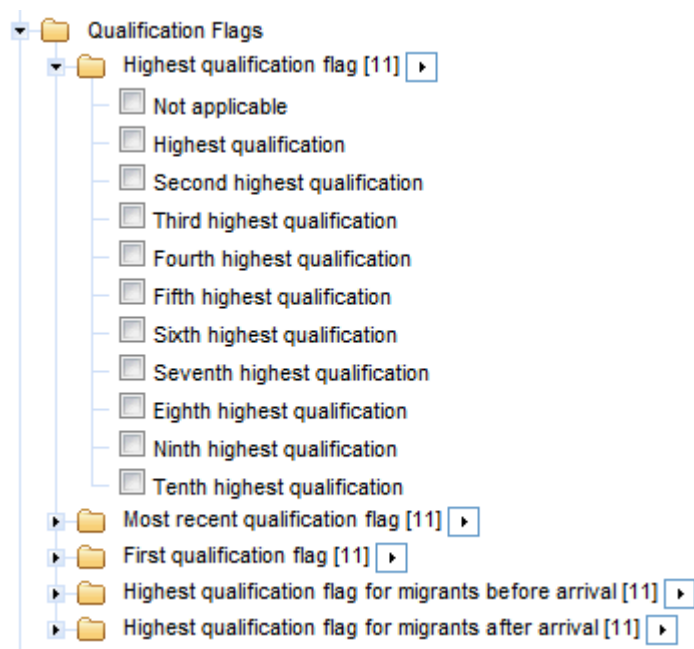
	Qualification	Whether completed qualification in Australia
1	Bachelor degree	Completed in Australia
2	Certificate III	Completed in Australia
3	Bachelor degree	Completed in Australia
4	Post graduate degree	Did not complete in Australia
5	Bachelor degree	Did not complete in Australia

In this example, only Qualifications 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be counted in the tabulation. Qualification 3 will be excluded because the qualification and whether it has been completed in Australia is the same as Qualification 1. All the other combinations of qualifications and 'Whether completed qualification in Australia' are unique.

The need for data where the same combinations of responses are only counted once is likely to be limited so as a general rule, **Qualification weight** should be selected from the 'Summation Options' for cross-tabulations where all variables are from the Qualification Level.

Using Qualification Flags

To assist with analysis, several variables have been created to help isolate specific qualifications. The following shows the available Qualification Flags:



By using a Qualification Flag, only one qualification for each respondent is included in a table. Selecting either the **Person weight** or the **Qualification weight** when using a Qualification Flag will produce the same result.


Cross-tabulating Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level X Qualification Level data items

Cross-tabulating data items from the Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level with data items from the Qualification Level can produce data about people or qualifications depending on the weight being used. Caution should be used when Cross-tabulating a Qualification Level data item while using a Person weight as a person with multiple qualifications may have the same qualifications counted only once in a table (for more detail see above: Cross-tabulating Qualification Level X Qualification Level data items).

Using a Qualification Flag may be worthwhile when cross-tabulating Socio-demographic and Learning and Work Level with Qualification Level data items as only one selected qualification will be included in the tabulation.

Example 1: Cross–tabulating qualification level data items by person level data items using the person weight – When using a qualification flag

When using a Qualification Flag (e.g. 'Second most recent qualification') in a table that cross–tabulates a qualification level data item by a person level data item, either the Person or the Qualification weight can be used and the same output will be generated. Restricting the table to a single qualification for each person (in this example the second most recent qualification) in effect turns this into a person level data item, as TableBuilder only needs to read one row of data from the qualification level for each person. The following table shows the results from such a tabulation where 'level of non–school qualification' is a data item from the qualification level and 'sex' is a data item from the person level.

Level of non-school qualification (ASCED) by Qualifications, Sex and Most recent qualification flag 
Counting: Qualifications

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 60 (6 columns x 10 rows).

Qualifications			
Qualifications (000's)			
Sex	Male	Female	Total
Most recent qualification flag	Second most recent qualification	Second most recent qualification	Second most recent qualification
Level of non-school qualification (ASCED)			
Not applicable	0	0	
Postgraduate degree	85.4	79.4	
Graduate diploma or graduate certificate	65.0	111.8	
Bachelor degree	414.7	596.4	
Advanced diploma or diploma	226.4	305.0	
Certificate III or IV	410.5	317.8	
Certificate I or II	116.0	180.2	
Certificate n.f.d.	35.5	24.4	
Level not determined	84.0	82.8	
Total	1,444.2	1,698.2	

Example 2: Cross–tabulating qualification level data items by person level data items using the person weight – When NOT using a qualification flag

When a Qualification Flag is not used, TableBuilder will read each row of data from the qualification level for each person. In this case, TableBuilder effectively calculates the tabulation as a 'multi–response' table (i.e. the same person can be counted more than

once), but it counts the same categories of information about different qualifications only once. It treats them as 'one or more occurrences' of that category. For example, if a respondent completed three qualifications, and for two of these qualifications the main field of study was 'highly relevant' to their current job where as the third qualification was 'not at all relevant' to their current job, then the person would be counted once for 'highly relevant' and once for 'not at all relevant'.

Therefore, in these particular types of tabulations, components of the table will not add to the total number of persons (as persons can be counted more than once), but the total will be the correct count of persons as TableBuilder calculates the total in such a way that each person is only counted once. An example table is shown below:

Whether main field of study is relevant to current job if not working in field by Sex

Counting: Persons

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 18 (3 columns x 6 rows).

		Sex		
		Male	Female	Total
Whether main field of study is relevant to current job if not working in field				
Not applicable		7,488.3	7,991.3	15,482.4
Highly relevant		194.7	189.4	384.3
Relevant		690.5	684.4	1,385.4
Not at all relevant		1,064.1	954.4	2,029.4
Don't know		0	0	0
Total		8,743.7	8,989.1	17,735.3

In summary, qualification level data items can be cross-tabulated with person level data items with or without Qualification Flags. Qualification Flags should be included in tables when a user wants information only about one particular qualification (e.g. the highest qualification or the most recent qualification), but should not be used in tables looking at all qualifications.

TABLE POPULATIONS

Table populations or units of measure can be found by looking at the 'Counting' subheading (see example below).

Weekly personal income from all sources - deciles by Persons and Number of non-school qualifications completed

Counting: Persons <- Table population

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 33 (3 columns x 11 rows).

Persons	Persons (000's)	
	Two qualifications	Three qualifications
Number of non-school qualifications completed		
Weekly personal income from all sources - deciles		
First decile	95.6	* 19.7
Second decile	92.9	36.3
Third decile	91.8	* 32.0
Fourth decile	115.8	38.2
Fifth decile	163.5	54.5
Sixth decile	169.8	50.6
Seventh decile	206.2	87.0
Eighth decile	244.5	90.7
Ninth decile	243.6	102.2
Tenth decile	358.8	159.3
Total	1,789.8	671.8

ADJUSTMENT OF CELL VALUES

The TableBuilder dataset has random adjustment of cell values applied to avoid the release of identifiable data. All cells in a table are adjusted to prevent any identifiable data being exposed. For this dataset 'additivity' has not been applied, that is, when the interior cells are randomly adjusted they have **not** been set to add up to the totals. As a result, randomly adjusted individual cells will be consistent across tables, but the totals in any table will not be the sum of the individual cell values.

ZERO VALUE CELLS

Tables generated from sample surveys will sometimes contain cells with zero values because no respondents that satisfied the parameters of the cell were in the survey. This is despite there being people in the population with those characteristics. That is, the cell may have had a value above zero if all persons in scope of the survey had been enumerated. This is an example of sampling variability which occurs with all sample surveys. Relative Standard Errors cannot be generated for zero cells.

MULTI-RESPONSE DATA ITEMS

A number of the survey's data items allow respondents to report more than one response. These are referred to as 'multi-response data items'. An example of such a data item is pictured below. For this data item respondents can report all of their sources of personal income.

☒ All sources of personal income [6] ▶

- ☐ Employee income
- ☐ Unincorporated business income
- ☐ Government pensions and allowances
- ☐ Other income
- ☐ Not known
- ☐ No income source

When a multi-response data item is tabulated, a person is counted against each response they have provided (e.g. a person who responds 'employee income' and 'unincorporated income' and 'government pensions and allowances' will be counted once in each of these three categories).

As a result, each person in the appropriate population is counted at least once, and some persons are counted multiple times. Therefore, the total for a multi-response data item will be less than or equal to the sum of its components. Multi-response data items can be identified by the initials 'MR' in the data item list, which can be accessed from the Downloads page. In the example below, the sum of the components is 25,256,200, where as the total population is 17,735,300.

	Persons
	Persons (000's)
All sources of personal income ↑↓⊕⊗	↑↓
Employee income	10,365.2
Unincorporated business income	1,597.5
Government pensions and allowances	5,301.1
Other income	6,770.0
Not known	89.4
No income source	1,133.0
Total	17,735.3

NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES

Most data items include a 'not applicable' category. The 'not applicable' category comprises those respondents who were not asked a particular question(s) and hence are not applicable to the population to which the data item refers. The classification value of the 'not applicable' category, where relevant, is shown in the data item list (see the Data Item List in the Downloads tab).

Data Item List



DATA ITEM LIST

A complete list of all data items included on the Learning and Work TableBuilder file is provided in an Excel spreadsheet that can be accessed from the Downloads page. The population applicable to each data item is also shown. Multi-response data items can be identified by the initials 'MR'.

Users intending to purchase the TableBuilder product should ensure the data they require, and the level of detail required, are available and applicable for the intended use.

Conditions of Use



CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

CURF DATA

TABLEBUILDER

CONDITIONS OF SALE

PRICE

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

FURTHER INFORMATION

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering ABS questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

[Back to top](#)

CURF DATA

The release of the CURF data is authorised by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination made under subsection 13(1) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The release of a CURF must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to approve release of unit record data. All CURFs released have been approved by the Statistician. Prior to being granted access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS. The CURF Undertaking is required by legislation and states that, prior to CURFs being released to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs. Individual users are bound by the undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the conditions and restrictions in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs. Any breach of the CURF Undertaking may result in withdrawal of service to individuals and/or organisations. Further information is contained in the [Consequences of Failing to Comply](#) web page.

[Back to top](#)

TABLEBUILDER

In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1905, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder, users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder
- understand that all data extracted from the Survey Output Record File through TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors
- users inform the ABS, through their Contact Officer, upon leaving their organisation that your access is disabled
- not to provide their TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

[Back to top](#)

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to the ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

[Back to top](#)

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page. Clients should familiarise themselves with the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and other related microdata information which are available via the Microdata web pages, before applying for access through MiCRO.

[Back to top](#)

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry page on the ABS website contains links to microdata related information to assist users to understanding and access microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

Explanatory Notes

Definitions and Quality



DEFINITIONS AND QUALITY

The publication Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11 (cat. no. 4235.0) includes a list of the Abbreviations used in the microdata for the Learning and Work topic. The publication also includes a Glossary containing definitions of selected terms.

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

TableBuilder files are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with TableBuilder can be found on the Confidentiality page.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

Data on Learning and Work were collected as part of the 2010–11 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The MPHS is a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is designed to collect annual statistics on a small number of self-contained topics. The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over, and excludes members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments usually excluded from census and estimated resident populations; overseas residents in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents). Refer to Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for further information regarding the LFS. In addition, the 2010–11 MPHS excluded people living in very remote parts of Australia and

people living in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, inmates of prisons and residents of other institutions (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities).

Microdata from the Learning and Work component of the MPHS are available in TableBuilder. Respondents were asked questions regarding their non-school qualification history. The type of information collected included the level and field of each qualification, year of completion and whether the qualification was completed in Australia. Data was also collected on the impact of each qualification on the person's working life in the first six months after completion, the relevance of each qualification to a person's current job as well as information about their cultural background. The data was collected from one person selected at random in each selected household.

For more information, see Microdata: Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11 (cat. no. 4235.0.55.001).

TIMELINESS

The MPHS is an annual survey with enumeration undertaken over the financial year period from July to June. The Learning and Work topic was collected for the first time using the MPHS in 2010–11 and is scheduled to be repeated in 2014–15. Data from the Learning and Work topic (in the form of html and data cubes) were released on 21 February 2012. Microdata in the form of a TableBuilder file is expected to be released within 24 months of the completion of enumeration.

ACCURACY

The microdata contains finer levels of detail than has been released in other formats, such as in Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11 (cat. no. 4235.0). For more information on the level of detail provided, please see the associated data item lists.

Steps are taken to confidentialise the data made available on TableBuilder in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from the microdata with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the following link:

TableBuilder confidentiality

COHERENCE

While the 2010–11 MPHS Learning and Work topic evolved from the 2006–07 MPHS Adult Learning module, there is sufficient difference between the two to make comparisons inappropriate. The most recent survey focused only on formal non–school qualifications, while the Adult Learning module collected information about the recent learning experiences (including formal qualifications, non–formal training and informal learning) of people aged 25–64. The Adult Learning topic was restricted to this age group to exclude people who were in the initial stages of education (to align with the European Adult Learning Survey). Learning and Work also includes information about the impact of qualifications on labour market outcomes and the relevance of qualifications to an individual's current job.

Data on educational participation are also collected through the Survey of Education and

Training (SET) and the Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Most of the content included in the MPHS Learning and Work topic is similar to that collected in the 2009 SET. The additional information available from the Learning and Work topic covers the relevance of the main field of study of the respondent's qualifications to their current job and whether the qualifications were completed in Australia. By contrast, most of the content included in Learning and Work is different to the content included in SEW.

Care should be taken when comparing data from different surveys that relate to education and training issues, due to the different scopes, definitions and methodologies used.

The Explanatory Notes section of Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11 (cat. no. 4235.0) provides more detailed information on the differences between the ABS Education surveys over time.

INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product should be referred to when using the microdata. It contains information including Survey methodology, File structure, Using the TableBuilder, Conditions of use and the Data item lists.

The Explanatory Notes section of the Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11 (cat. no. 4235.0) includes information on survey objectives, survey methods and design, data quality and interpretation, output data items, information about the availability of results and comparability with previous surveys.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access the microdata should read the How to apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through MiCRO. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata web pages.

A full list of available microdata can be viewed via the List of expected and available Microdata.

Learning and Work 2010–11 can be accessed using TableBuilder.

Any questions regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.